

MANZANAR WAR RELOCATION CENTER  
Manzanar National Historic Site  
Independence Vic.  
Inyo County  
California

HABS NO. CA-2399

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MANZANAR WAR RELOCATION CENTER  
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Location: In the Owens Valley off of U.S. Highway 395, approximately 6 miles south of Independence, Inyo County, California.

The Owens Valley is bounded by the high peaks of the Sierra Nevada on the west, including Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the continental United States at 14,495 feet, and on the east by the Inyo Mountains. Much of the valley is owned by the City of Los Angeles, which bought the land in the 1920s in order to divert water into the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The aqueduct winds its way along the valley floor, and flows southwest approximately 230 miles to the city.

Present Owner: City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power (under negotiation for purchase by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior).

Present Use: Source of water for the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Significance: Manzanar was one of ten relocation centers which held Japanese evacuated from the West Coast of the United States during World War II. After a National Park Service study of all ten sites it was determined that Manzanar presented the best opportunity for preservation and interpretation. The United States Congress established Manzanar National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park System, on March 3, 1992.

Historian: Michael Kelleher, New York University, summer 1994

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1942 to 1944. The area was selected for the site of a facility to hold Japanese evacuees in February 1942, and construction began the following month. The first evacuees arrived on March 21, 1942. Construction and remodeling of buildings in the center was constant until 1944 when most major construction ended. Manzanar was closed when the last evacuees left on November 21, 1945.

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2. Architect: The layout of the center and the design of most of the buildings was by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, based on standardized plans. Additional construction was designed by the Farm Security Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture (FSA), and the War Relocation Authority (WRA), which administered the center.
3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: The City of Los Angeles purchased land in the Owens Valley in the 1920s in order to divert water into the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Under the authority of the Second War Powers Act of 1942, the War Department took possession of the land that same year and was later granted legal authority by the courts to occupy the land until 1946. The War Department granted a license to the WRA to use the land as a relocation center. In 1946, the land was turned over to the General Land Office, U.S. Department of the Interior, which disposed of most of the structures on the site before it was returned to the city of Los Angeles. One of the few remaining structures, the auditorium, was purchased by Inyo County in 1947. The auditorium was first leased by the Veterans of Foreign Wars for use as an assembly hall, and has been used as a maintenance garage by Inyo County since the early 1950s.
4. Builder, Contractors:  
Supervisory Engineer: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Los Angeles District.  
General Construction: Griffith and Company,  
Los Angeles, California.  
Camouflage Net Factory: Q. R. S. Neon Corporation,  
Los Angeles, California.  
Guard Towers: Charles I. Sumner, Lone Pine, California.  
Fencing: C. J. Paradis, Los Angeles, California.  
Water System: Vinson and Pringle, Los Angeles,  
California.  
Sewage System: Vinson and Pringle, Los Angeles,  
California.
5. Original Plans and construction: The layout of the center and design of most of the structures was by the Corps of Engineers, based on standardized plans for military Theater of Operations housing. Additional housing for WRA staff and the high school auditorium were designed by the FSA. Other buildings were designed by the WRA. Most major construction was

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carried out by contractors working under the Corps of Engineers, with additional construction by the evacuees working under the WRA.

6. Alterations and additions: The WRA altered many structures from 1942 to 1945 to fit the different requirements of the center. The most significant of these was the 1942 renovation of the deteriorating barracks in which the evacuees lived.

B. Historical Context:

The Exclusion and Evacuation of the Japanese

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the entry of the United States into World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942. This order allowed the War Department to "proscribe military areas... from which any or all persons may be excluded" in order to provide "protection against espionage and against sabotage."<sup>1</sup> Under this authority, Lt. General John L. DeWitt, Commander of the Western Defense Command, issued a number of public proclamations and civilian exclusion orders which led to the forced removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry, regardless of their citizenship, from the West Coast of the United States.

The Western Defense Command initially planned what it called a "voluntary evacuation" in which the Japanese would independently move from the West Coast and relocate to interior states. In order to carry out this program, Lt. General DeWitt established the Wartime Civil Control Authority (WCCA) under the Western Defense Command. To house those persons who "could not, or would not" relocate, in March 1942 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began construction of the Owens Valley Reception Center in Inyo County, California.<sup>2</sup> When hostility toward the Japanese in interior states made voluntary evacuation difficult, a government organized evacuation and relocation plan was implemented. Under this plan, the Japanese first went to U.S. Army run assembly centers located near their homes. From these facilities they were eventually transported to one of ten relocation centers administered by a civilian agency, the War Relocation Authority (WRA), which was supposed to carry out the relocation of approximately 110,000 Japanese.

With the WRA responsible for the relocation of the Japanese, the Western Defense Command transferred the Owens Valley Reception Center and the 10,049 people held there to the WRA on June 1, 1942, and the facility became Manzanar War Relocation Center,

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which was one of ten WRA relocation centers.

The Owens Valley and the Western Defense Command

In 1942, the Western Defense Command chose the Owens Valley as the site of a facility to house Japanese evacuated from the West Coast. Two sources provide explanations for this decision. The first is the Project Director's Report from the 1946 "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center," written by Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director of Manzanar War Relocation Center from November 24, 1942, until the camp closed on November 21, 1945. Prior to serving in this position Merritt was a resident and rancher in the Owens Valley, and chairman of a committee which he described as "representing the people of Owens Valley in their discussions with the City of Los Angeles over land and water."<sup>3</sup>

As chairman, Merritt participated in discussions with the Western Defense Command and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which administered the holdings of the city in the valley, on the location of a facility for the Japanese. The second source is an April 1942 report by Melton E. Silverman, a writer for the San Francisco Chronicle who was assigned by the Western Defense Command to visit WCCA facilities. This report, which was included in the appendices of the Project Director's Report, has some discrepancies with Merritt, but supports most of his narrative.

The Owens Valley was first considered as a site for a Japanese reception center by the publisher of a Los Angeles newspaper who was assisting the Roosevelt Administration with the planning of the evacuation of the Japanese from the West Coast. Merritt did not name the publisher, but Silverman identifies him as Manchester Boddy, publisher of the Los Angeles Daily News. Boddy met with representatives of the Department of Water and Power and the Inyo-Mono Association, an Owens Valley area civic group, on February 26, 1942, to inform them that the Western Defense Command had decided upon the Owens Valley as the area in which the camp would be located. A citizens committee, with Merritt as chairman, was organized to help the military find a site within the valley.

Members of the Corps of Engineers arrived in the Owens Valley on February 27, 1942, to examine areas for use as a possible camp site, accompanied by several members of the committee, including Merritt. The engineers selected a site on the western side of the valley between the towns of Independence and Lone Pine because of its relatively level ground and the water available from several streams which ran down from the Sierra Nevada. In

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addition, Silverman stated that the military selected the site "because of its distance from any vital defense project (except the Los Angeles Aqueduct), its relative inaccessibility, [and] the ease with which it could be policed."<sup>4</sup>

The area chosen by the Corps of Engineers for a facility to hold Japanese was a vacant area known as Manzanar. Silverman reported that an orchard owned by the Gunn family once stood on this site, and that the area obtained its name from the Manzanar apples grown here. The Agriculture Section of the "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center" stated that twenty years before the military chose the site for a camp, a small agricultural settlement called Manzanar was located here. This settlement consisted of about twenty farms which grew apples, pears, vegetables, alfalfa, and other crops. In the 1920s, when Los Angeles was acquiring land in the valley to divert water into its aqueduct, land in Manzanar was purchased and the settlement was subsequently abandoned.

The local community was informed of the decision of the military to locate a camp at Manzanar on March 6, 1942, even though bids for the camp construction contract were opened the previous day.<sup>5</sup> Lt. General DeWitt informed the Department of Water and Power on March 7, 1942, that "[i]n order adequately to provide the means for orderly and rapid accomplishment" of the evacuation of the Japanese from the West Coast, "the establishment of necessary facilities to care for persons excluded" is essential. Therefore, he had "initiated construction of necessary facilities in Owens Valley near Manzanar upon property owned by the City of Los Angeles." DeWitt continued that the "[u]se of this property will be for so long as the present emergency requires," and that "effective immediately, temporary possession of said property...will be taken by...the United States Government."<sup>6</sup>

Although the military was taking physical possession of the land, the legal issues involved had not been settled. The Federal Government filed a civil complaint for condemnation of the land "under the power of eminent domain" on June 27, 1942, based on authority given to the Executive Branch by the Second War Powers Act of 1942.<sup>7</sup> The Western Defense Command and Los Angeles disagreed on the annual payment that should be made for the use of the land, with the military claiming \$12,000 and the city \$25,000. The Court decided in favor of Los Angeles and a "Declaration of Taking" was issued, granting the Western Defense Command the legal right to occupy and use the land "for a term of years ending June 30, 1944, extendable for yearly periods during the national emergency" and six month periods thereafter.<sup>8</sup>

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With the issuance of Public Proclamation Number 1 on March 2, 1942, declaring the military areas on the West Coast from which Japanese would be excluded, it became necessary for the Western Defense Command to rapidly construct the Owens Valley Reception Center to house evacuees. The military was interested in keeping construction costs low. As a result, a "Directive for Construction for Alien Enemies," which set out the basic requirements for camps constructed by the Corps of Engineers, was issued by the Western Defense Command on March 6, 1942. The directive stated that the

minimum requirements consistent with health and sanitation will determine the type of construction. In general, the facilities afforded by Theatre of Operations type construction will not be exceeded. This project will be limited to a cost not to exceed \$500 per individual.<sup>9</sup>

In the course of deciding upon these requirements the military had consulted with the Work Projects Administration (WPA) and the Farm Security Administration (FSA) because of their experience in the development of low cost housing.

The construction directive was transmitted to the District Engineer in Los Angeles on March 13, 1942, accompanied by an authorization to begin construction of a camp in the Owens Valley. The authorization stated that the specific "requirements for this camp are to be determined by the Commanding General, Western Defense Command."<sup>10</sup> An agreement between Lt. General DeWitt and the Corps of Engineers specified that the facilities in the camp provide "[s]helter for evacuees arranged in rectangular block units each containing mess, recreation or vocational building, baths, latrines, and laundry."<sup>11</sup> This was similar to the type of block arrangement used in military cantonments to house enlisted men.

Each block was to house approximately 300 people, and the barracks would be U.S. Army Theatre of Operations (TO) wood and tarpaper construction, which was standard temporary Army housing for enlisted men stationed abroad. After January of 1942, however, Theatre of Operations was occasionally used in the U.S. in response to the scarcity of building materials, but were only intended to be used for one to two years. Groups of blocks were divided by firebreaks, which were open swaths of land intended to stop the spread of fire among these wood buildings. Despite the directive that housing not exceed TO type construction, the barracks were modified for the evacuees, meaning that partitions would eventually be installed to create apartments for separate

families and the walls and ceilings would be lined for insulation.

#### Construction Begins and the Center Opens

The contractor for most of the building at Manzanar was Griffith and Company of Los Angeles, which used building plans drawn up by the Corps of Engineers, and worked under the supervision of engineers from the Los Angeles District of the Corps.<sup>12</sup> According to Merritt, building materials began to arrive in Owens Valley on March 14, 1942, with work beginning the next day to clear the site and excavate trenches for piping. Silverman reported that work on the camp began on March 18, 1942, with carpenters beginning construction on the first buildings on March 19. Construction of barracks for the evacuees was organized on March 20; a schedule of building one block of fifteen barracks and mess hall a day, using an assembly line method and prefabricated building parts manufactured on site, as developed by the Army for defense mobilization camp construction was adopted. Silverman described this system in which

the workmen moved into action like an army of trained magicians. One crew led the way with small concrete blocks for foundations. A second followed with the girders and floor joists. A third came right along with the flooring, a fourth with prefabricated sections of sidewalls, a fifth with prefabricated trusses, a sixth slopped on the wooden roof, a seventh followed with tarpaper, and an eighth finished with doors, windows and partitions.<sup>13</sup>

Owens Valley Reception Center, operated by the WCCA, received its first evacuees on March 21, 1942, as part of the Western Defense Command's voluntary evacuation program. Both Merritt and Silverman provide information on the early arrivals, but there is some discrepancy between them. Merritt stated that eighty-four Japanese arrived by bus on March 21, six more arrived by car on March 22, and 710 arrived on March 23 "in a caravan of private cars escorted by the Army."<sup>14</sup> Silverman reported that eighty-six evacuees who were part of the headquarters staff of the camp, including painters, plumbers, doctors, nurses, cooks, bakers, and stenographers, arrived on March 21 to prepare the reception center for the arrival of others. On March 23 about 800 male evacuees who volunteered to do the heavy work involved in preparing the camp arrived in two groups. The first 560 came by train, and 240 arrived later in the day in a car caravan with an escort of soldiers. Silverman reported that the "Army convoy was a military escort, officers emphasized, and definitely not an



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armed guard."<sup>15</sup> Silverman also reported that the first families, totaling about 400 people, arrived at the neighboring town of Lone Pine by train on April 1, and were bused to the camp where they were registered and assigned housing. They were followed by 878 people on April 2.

Reception Center or Assembly Center?

In several accounts, Manzanar is referred to as having served as an assembly center during the time that it was administered by the WCCA. However, the military referred to the facility as the Owens Valley Reception Center, which, as previously stated, was intended to house those Japanese who could not, or would not relocate as a part of the Western Defense Command's initial voluntary relocation plan. In contrast, assembly centers were facilities located near areas populated by Japanese, which the evacuees reported to prior to being sent to WRA administered war relocation projects during the subsequent government organized relocation period. Therefore, the isolated location of the Owens Valley facility would appear to exclude it from use as an assembly center. However, it remains unclear what function the Owens Valley Reception Center served during the initial period that it held evacuees.

The first evacuees arrived in the Owens Valley on March 21, 1942, when the voluntary evacuation was still the operating policy. At this time the facility may have served as an assembly center, but it would not seem logical to transport evacuees from the Los Angeles area, from which most came, to an assembly center over 200 miles away, when these facilities were supposed to be near the evacuees' homes. This period ended on March 27, 1942, when Lt. General DeWitt issued Public Proclamation Number 4, which forbade further voluntary evacuation from the West Coast. During the time between the issuance of this proclamation and the beginning of WRA administration of Manzanar War Relocation Center on June 1, 1942, the Western Defense Command reported that it transported 9,830 evacuees directly to the Owens Valley facility without having them first go to assembly centers. This would imply that the facility did not serve as an assembly center during this two month period. However, those first six days of the operation of the Owens Valley Reception Center remain ambiguous.<sup>16</sup>

Guard Towers, Barbed Wire, and Military Police

A WRA staff member, visiting the Owens Valley Reception Center on May 7, 1942, in preparation for the transfer of the camp to the

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WRA from the WCCA, submitted the following opinion on plans to construct eight guard towers to WRA Director Milton Eisenhower:

Inasmuch as our direction of effort should be away from surveillance of these people as enemies or as anything else than participant American citizens, it seems extremely undesirable to establish such guard towers. Mr. Fryer said that he would do everything he could to prevent their erection. In case they are erected while the project is still in Army control, they could be removed after the War Relocation Authority takes over, or they could be allowed to remain without being used.<sup>17</sup>

This statement, which appears to represent the feelings of a number of WRA personnel, conflicted with the opinions of the military, some members of which thought it might be necessary to build more than the maximum number of eight guard towers authorized for Manzanar.<sup>18</sup> Despite the efforts of these staff members, a May 20, 1942, memorandum concerning the transfer of the Owens Valley facility to the WRA stated that construction of the guard towers and fencing "should be undertaken as soon as the requisite clearance is obtained through agreement between the San Francisco office of WRA and the Provost Marshall" of the Army.<sup>19</sup>

The construction of guard towers and fencing was not standardized for each WCCA or WRA center. As the June 8, 1942, agreement on standards for construction previously referred to stated, the number and location of guard towers around the camps would be the decision of the camp Military Police (MP) commander, and the height of the towers would be "commensurate with terrain conditions."<sup>20</sup> As such, the engineer in charge of construction of the Owens Valley facility was given permission to move the location of the "watch towers up to 100 yards outward" from the center as requested by the center manager, and to make adjustments for terrain.<sup>21</sup>

Although the physical security apparatus of the relocation centers was allowed to vary, the functions of the MPs were standardized in an agreement between the WRA and the Army. This agreement sought to make it clear that the

Relocation Centers and Areas are not concentration camps, and the use of this term is considered objectionable. Relocation Centers are not internment camps. Internment camps are established for another purpose and are not related to the evacuation program.<sup>22</sup>

Although the relocation centers were not supposed to be concentration or internment camps, the movements of the evacuees at Manzanar was restricted. Within the camp proper, there was complete freedom of movement at all times. During the day, evacuees could leave the camp to work at jobs in the agricultural and livestock areas surrounding it. At night, the evacuees were confined to the camp proper, unless special permission was granted by the project director. In other cases, evacuees were allowed to leave Manzanar to join the military, attend college, work on farms, take part in defense or government work, and eventually for the purposes of relocation to other parts of the country.

Initial construction of guard towers and fencing along the perimeter of the Owens Valley facility began under the WCCA, with plans for a barbed wire fence along the front of the center, separating it from U.S. Highway 395, and along the north and south sides of the center far enough to control automobile traffic. A June 15, 1942, memorandum on the subject stated that the north and south extension of the fence should extend as far as the guard tower on each side of the camp. In addition, the WCCA ordered that placards written in English and Japanese be placed every 500' to mark the perimeter of the camp. A project report from July 23, 1942, stated that the fence along the highway had been under construction by evacuee labor for two weeks, and that it was expected to be completed in another two.<sup>23</sup>

In a July 31, 1942, address, Project Director Roy Nash referred to four guard towers and a barbed wire fence along the front of Manzanar, and far enough along the sides of the camp to control automobile traffic. If there were four guard towers at the camp at this time, and the fencing ran along the sides of the camp up to the towers, at least two of the four towers present would definitely have been the ones located midway between the north and south sides of the camp. Therefore, it is likely that the other two towers were located midway between the east and west sides of the camp, and that the towers located at the corners of the camp were built later.<sup>24</sup>

The guard towers at Manzanar were built by a local contractor, Charles I. Summer of Lone Pine, California. The bases of the towers were 8' square, and tapered up to tops that were 6' square. Concrete piers imbedded in the ground provided support to the 40' high wood structures, which had an enclosed platform with windows at the 30' level and an open platform at 40' with a 2,000 candle power searchlight.<sup>25</sup>

By October 1942, there was an agreement between the

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administration of Manzanar and the commanding officer of the MPs assigned to the camp that the fence should be extended around the entire camp. However, there was a labor shortage in the camp during this period because 1,000 young men had left to work in the beet fields of Idaho and Montana, and any available labor had to be used for priority construction such as lining the interiors of the barracks in time for winter and making improvements on the schools. As a result, the project director decided that work on the fence would be put on hold at least until December. It is not known exactly when the extension of the fence was begun, but a Corps of Engineers "Transfer of New Construction" form dated November 5, 1942, shows that the 5' high, five strand, two point barbed wire fence mounted on wood posts that was to eventually run for 19,388 linear feet around the camp was only half complete. Therefore, the extension was not begun by this date.<sup>26</sup>

The construction inventory from November 1945, referred to earlier, stated that 19,380' of boundary fence was "acquired from the other war agency (WCCA) at the time that the War Relocation Authority took possession of the lands from the War Department."<sup>27</sup> The inventory appears to contradict the July 23, 1942, report referenced above, which stated that the fence was constructed while the camp was under the WRA. In addition, the Engineering Section of the "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center" refers to C. J. Paradis of Los Angeles as the contractor for the removal of 5,000 linear feet of old fencing and the installation of 18,871' of new fencing at Manzanar. However, the "Standards and Details-Construction of Japanese Evacuee Reception Centers" stated that a "[s]tandard stock fence will be built around the occupied area, excluding the MP area. Materials may be left for construction with Japanese labor," and appears to support the project report.<sup>28</sup>

While it would appear that the various documents related to the construction of the fencing around Manzanar are contradictory, this is not necessarily the case. Construction of the fencing may have been the responsibility of the Corps of Engineers after Manzanar was under the WRA because the Corps continued to be responsible for several different projects after the Army no longer controlled the camp. Furthermore, the Corps used contractors who operated under its supervision for each of these projects, which could account for C. J. Paradis being listed as the contractor for the fencing. Lastly, it is possible that this contractor hired evacuees at Manzanar as laborers to construct the fence in two phases, separated by the labor shortage mentioned earlier.

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The history of the construction of the rock sentry house and rock police house located at the entrance to Manzanar is rather vague, as few of the existing documents refer to these structures. This is probably because the construction of the buildings was not undertaken as a major project at the camp and was carried out, and possibly supervised, by evacuees.

The stone houses were located at an extension of 1st Street, which ran east-west inside the camp, past the administrative section of Manzanar. This street extended outside the camp to U.S. Highway 395 to serve as the main entrance to the facility. An earlier entrance was located 650' north of 1st Street, in the area of Block 7. According to a June 15, 1942, memorandum from Project Director Roy Nash to the Senior Engineer Harry Brown, Jr., the new entrance was to be built opposite the project office. The new entrance was designed by Brown's predecessor to include a sentry box, but the memorandum does not indicate if this design included the actual plans for the box. Nash wrote to the District Engineer of the California Division of Highways on August 14, 1942, requesting permission to move the entrance, and construction probably began the following month.<sup>29</sup>

At the new entrance to Manzanar was the station house for the internal police department, which was made up of evacuees. This 20' x 100' wood structure was initially constructed by the Corps of Engineers for use as a reception area for visitors to the camp who wished to see evacuees, but was remodeled by the WRA for use as a police station, with a cement floor and a jail cell. The police occupied their new station on or around July 24, 1942.<sup>30</sup>

Two small stone structures referred to as the rock sentry house and the rock house were also located at the new entrance to Manzanar. These structures were built by evacuees, and judging by the Japanese style evident in their design, they were probably designed by them as well. The larger of the two, the 13' x 14' rock sentry house, was located in the center of the two-way entrance just off U.S. Highway 395, and was used by the MPs to control access to and from the camp. The smaller of the two structures, the 8' x 10' rock house, was located in the center of the two-way entrance road to the camp opposite the police station and was used by the internal police. A third rock sentry house was built near the entrance to the MP compound, located just south of the main camp area. Each of these rock houses was constructed of "native stone, hand cut, and set in cement mortar," with wood-shingled roofs.<sup>31</sup> Windows were placed on three sides of the structures, and a door on the fourth. Each building had interior and exterior lighting.

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A quarterly progress report for July through September 1942 stated that a rock sentry house was constructed except for the roof, while a report for October through December 1942 stated that a small rock house for the internal police department was erected. It is not known if the first reference was to the rock sentry house used by the MPs, or if both references were to the internal police structure.<sup>32</sup> The Engineering Section of the "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center," appears to contradict both of these reports, as it stated that construction on the "Rock Sentry and Police Station" was begun on October 1, 1943, and completed on May 10, 1944.<sup>33</sup> However, based upon the documents relating to the construction of the new entrance and the rock houses, these dates appear to be inaccurate.

The MPs at Manzanar were stationed in a small compound south of the main camp, which consisted of modified TO buildings. The MPs patrolled the perimeter of Manzanar and manned the gates and the watch towers twenty-four hours a day until December 25, 1943, when Director Merritt received what he called a "Christmas present" from Captain Nail, commander of the MP unit.<sup>34</sup> Starting on Christmas day, the MPs did not patrol the perimeter of the camp or man the gates or the guard towers from 8 AM to 6 PM, except for one soldier at the rock sentry house who controlled traffic. This change in procedure was a sign of the drastic change in the attitude of the MPs toward the Japanese in Manzanar. Whereas there was enough trust and goodwill for the MPs to present this Christmas present to the camp in 1943, the first commander of the MPs, Lt. Harvey Severson, remarked at the opening of the camp that the "men don't like this job...and I can't blame them very much. They've been trained and educated to kill Japs, and here they're supposed to protect them."<sup>35</sup>

Transfer to the War Relocation Authority

An agreement was reached on April 17, 1942, between the Western Defense Command and the WRA to transfer the Owens Valley Reception Center on June 1, 1942. The next step came on May 20, 1942, when Roy Nash, formerly superintendent of an Indian agency, arrived to prepare for his new position as Project Director of Manzanar War Relocation Center. Secretary of War Henry Stimson granted a legal license to the WRA to use lands under military authority on May 23, 1942, the same day that Lt. General DeWitt ordered the transfer of evacuees from the WCCA's assembly centers to WRA relocation centers.

With the Western Defense Command's transfer of the Owens Valley Reception Center, and the 10,049 evacuees held there, the facility officially became Manzanar War Relocation Center.

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Although Manzanar was now under the administration of the WRA, the military continued to have a role in the camp. Legally, the property continued to be under the control of the military, although the WRA was responsible for annual payments to the Department of Water and Power. More importantly, construction of the camp continued under the Corps of Engineers in order "to meet minimum living requirements" for the more than 10,000 Japanese held there.<sup>36</sup>

On the day the WRA took over Manzanar a detailed report was issued on the condition of the camp. The report found that "there were many things, both tangible and intangible, which were satisfactory as of June 1, and many which were unsatisfactory."<sup>37</sup> Most significant among the unsatisfactory conditions: the barracks were overcrowded and in poor condition. Some apartments intended for four to six persons had eight to ten living in them. The floors and walls of the barracks showed "considerable deterioration" resulting from the drying of the lumber due to the heat and low humidity and had led to several floors giving way.<sup>38</sup> Linoleum and felt padding had been ordered to cover the bare wood floors, but had not yet arrived. The barracks had been turned over to the Japanese without exterior steps, which the evacuees were expected to build.

At the time the WRA took over the camp, this work was seventy-five percent complete. Only twenty out of thirty-six mess halls were complete, and the lavatories did not have partitions. There was no auditorium or gymnasium; one building on each block was set aside for recreation. No schools had been built, but plans had been made to construct two elementary schools, a junior high school, and a senior high school which would be ready for the fall semester. The hospital was located in a barracks building while a permanent facility was under construction. No provision had been made for carpentry, plumbing or repair shops, which were currently housed in a warehouse. Neither the water supply system nor the sewage disposal plant were complete, and the electrical system was overloaded.

#### Evacuee Housing

Housing was the main concern of the WRA upon taking over the camp. Blocks 28, 29, and 31 through 36, with a combined capacity of approximately 2,600 people, were yet to be opened. To make the housing conditions worse, of the fifteen barracks in each of the open blocks, the No. 15 building was used for recreation and the No. 14 building in ten of these blocks was used for purposes other than housing. As a result, there was an average of 7.5 persons per 20' x 25' apartment, with each person having an

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average of 66.6 feet of living space. The administration was planning to redistribute the entire population in more adequate facilities so that each person would have a minimum of 90 square feet of floor space and the average number of people in each apartment would be reduced to six. This required providing plumbing to those closed blocks, moving partitions to provide more room for large families, and installing floor covering and insulation before winter. However, adequate material was not available to install partitions between all apartments, and cloth was often being used in place of walls. In addition, a lack of equipment in the mess halls in Blocks 24 through 27, and 30 delayed their opening, forcing the residents of these blocks to crowd into other mess halls.<sup>39</sup>

Construction on the barracks was not fully completed until July 1942, but by using evacuee labor, all thirty-six blocks were far enough along to be occupied by June 30, 1942. Partitions began to be moved in July, and 2.5 million square feet of celotex boards were ordered for insulation and were expected to be installed by September. The opening of mess walls advanced incrementally, with thirty-one in operation in July, thirty-two in August, thirty-five in September, and thirty-six in October.<sup>40</sup>

By September 30, 1942, living conditions at Manzanar had changed a great deal, as partitions in barracks had been rearranged to create 1,100 apartments for three to five people, 870 for five to six people, and 280 for seven people, totaling 2,250 apartments for 10,500 people. In addition, Pabco, a substitute for linoleum, was installed in black, but occasionally in red, on living rooms by October 30, 1942.<sup>41</sup>

Although it appeared that construction in the barracks areas was completed, the changing requirements of the camp necessitated continual construction and renovation of the facilities. The use of clothes irons in barracks caused blown fuses and entire buildings went dark, so construction began on separate ironing facilities on each block in June 1942, completed in July. The construction of school facilities was delayed, so barracks in Block 7 were converted into the high school in time for the fall 1942 semester, while a portion of Block 1 served as the elementary school and the remainder of the block was taken over by the camp administration. Building 15 on Block 34 (referred to as 34-15, see Typical Block, Figure 1) had to be remodeled in November 1942 for use as the Community Hostel, where the mentally ill and physically handicapped were housed. Services such as shoe repair, a barber shop, and a beauty shop, which had been temporarily housed in a warehouse, were moved into Building 27-14



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in July 1942. With school facilities still not built by October 1943, the floor of Mess Hall 2 had to be strengthened for use as a gymnasium and theatre by the following month.<sup>42</sup>

It was not until March 1944 that the administration of the camp could report that "[f]or the first time in the history of the center, sufficient apartments are available so that adequate housing can be furnished for all residents," a full two years after the first evacuees arrived.<sup>43</sup> This was only accomplished as a result of the relocation of evacuees to other parts of the country, as well as the segregation of certain Japanese believed to be disloyal to the United States who were sent to the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Northern California in 1943 and 1944.<sup>44</sup>

Staff Housing and Administrative Facilities

After initial construction at Manzanar was completed by contractors working under the Corps of Engineers, additional construction and remodeling of buildings was the responsibility of the camp Engineering Section. The caucasian staff (as they were referred to) of this section consisted of eight to fourteen people who trained and supervised a work force of evacuees who received wages. The Senior Engineer, Arthur M. Sandridge, complained that "few of the Japanese" at Manzanar were "carpenters, plumbers, electricians, or trained for other building trades," which was a problem when "the temporary buildings deteriorated very fast and required constant repairs." Nonetheless, Sandridge believed that "[t]his program was carried out only by the cooperation of the appointed personnel and the evacuees."<sup>45</sup>

Among the jobs carried out by the Engineering Section was the expansion of staff housing, which was considered inadequate. In January 1943, the camp had only nine family quarters and sixteen single apartments housing twenty-nine WRA employees, one U.S. Post Office employee, and twenty-two dependents. Meanwhile, thirty-six employees and forty-two dependents lived in the towns of Independence, which was six miles away, Lone Pine, which was ten miles away, and Cartago, which was twenty-five miles away. Seventy-seven employees and approximately fifty dependents were living in what Ralph Merritt described as "evacuee barracks so unsatisfactory that many employees have quit due to housing conditions."<sup>46</sup> The WRA planed to build wood frame housing for up to 250 staff members from plans provided by the FSA in June 1942, and included a combination of apartments for families and dormitories for single or married staff without children.<sup>47</sup>

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By May 1943, the construction of staff housing was forty percent complete and the staff mess hall fully complete. The construction was ninety-six percent complete by February 17, 1944. A letter from Merritt to WRA Director Dillon S. Myer reported the completion of three staff dormitories and housekeeping apartments by March 31, but these were probably among the ninety-six percent reported in February. The last four percent of the planned staff housing was never completed due to the cancellation of a number of construction projects at Manzanar because the relocation program had decreased the number of evacuees at the camp to 5,549 by January 1, 1945.<sup>48</sup>

Of the nine buildings in the main administration area located south of Block 1, only one was used for offices and five were remodelled for staff housing. The one administrative structure was an "L" shaped building constructed by placing together two preexisting 40' x 100' structures and having interior offices separated by partitions. This building, completed in late July or early August 1942, was at the main entrance to Manzanar and was the primary administrative building for the camp. Because of the shortage of office space that resulted from the administrative buildings in this area being converted into staff housing, all of the barracks in Block 1 were eventually made into administrative buildings.<sup>49</sup>

A November 1945 inventory of all construction at Manzanar listed the administration buildings on Block 1 (see Camp Layout, Figure 2) as Building 1-1 the Manzanar Free Press and Reports offices, Building 1-2 the Public Works and Project Attorney offices, Building 1-3 the Community Welfare office, Building 1-4 the Relocation office, Building 1-5 the Statistics and Records office, Building 1-6 the Consumers Enterprises office, Building 1-7 the Property Control office, Building 1-8 Property Control, Building 1-9 the clothing section, Building 1-10 the staff recreation hall, Building 1-11 the Personnel Management office, Building 1-12 offices, Building 1-13 the Community Activity and Educational Department offices, and Building 1-14 a supply room.

The buildings in the main administration area included (see Camp Layout, Figure 2) the administration building, family apartments A and C, dormitories D, E, and F, the Town Hall, Post Office, and a staff mess hall. Seventeen new buildings were constructed in the staff housing area, located south of Manzanar's main administration area. This area included the director's house G, dormitories H, I, and J, and K through W were staff apartments.<sup>50</sup>

Hospital, Community Hostel, and Children's Village

When the Owens Valley Reception Center opened it did not have a permanent hospital facility, and a temporary facility was set up on March 21, 1942, in Building 1-2, with Apartment 2 used for the hospital proper and Apartment 3 containing five beds. On April 13 the hospital was moved into a full barracks partitioned into units containing ten beds each, an operating room, pharmacy, laboratory, x-ray room, sterilizing room, utility room, linen room, record room, and kitchen. Four more barracks were eventually acquired for additional patients.<sup>51</sup>

On July 22 the hospital moved into a permanent 250 bed facility, built by Griffith and Company, that covered 563,087 square feet of floor space west of Blocks 29 and 34. This complex of buildings included an administrative building, doctors and nurses quarters, seven wards (one obstetrical ward, two isolation wards, four general wards), a mess hall, laundry, heating plant, morgue, and two warehouses. The administrative building was divided into offices, an out-patient clinic, an ear, nose, throat clinic, pharmacy, x-ray, minor surgery, sterilizing room, surgery, and laboratory. These structures were TO type construction, except for the heating plant, which was wood frame construction. Walkways covered with roofs connected the various buildings in the hospital group, with those connecting the administration building, wards, mess hall, and morgue closed on the side with windows. Those connecting the doctors' and nurses' quarters to the wards had open sides. A formal dedication ceremony was held on September 12, 1942. The Manzanar hospital was considered to be "the largest hospital in the area," as the camp was "the largest center of population" in either Inyo County or neighboring Mono County.<sup>52</sup>

After the initial construction of the hospital it was necessary for the WRA to make several changes and additions. An 8' x 8' incinerator made of native stone with a 12' smoke stack and placed on a concrete slab for fire safety, was built for the sanitary disposal of medical waste. It is not known when the incinerator was constructed. Other WRA work on the hospital included installing plasterboard on the walls and ceilings for sanitary purposes, floor covering on the walkways, and the remodeling of the doctors' quarters. The remodeling of the quarters was requested by the caucasian doctors who had replaced the evacuee doctors who had relocated and left Manzanar. No dates are available for this construction.<sup>53</sup>

Plans were prepared by the Corps of Engineers in May 1943 for alterations to the administration building, a new outpatient

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building, a new surgery building, new covered walks, and the remodeling of a building for an "Old Age Home."<sup>54</sup> However there is no record of this work having been carried out, and some or all of it may have been canceled by the War Production Board (WPB) due to lack of materials. The Old Age Home may have been a reference to the Community Hostel, which is discussed below.

Other construction in the hospital area included an additional building for staff housing constructed south of the main complex in a firebreak. This 20' x 104' wood frame building was divided into a one family apartment and a dormitory area which included nine bedrooms, a living, kitchen and two bathrooms. It was constructed as a part of the larger WRA project to build additional staff housing at Manzanar.<sup>55</sup>

In addition to a general hospital for the camp, a facility to house the mentally ill and physically handicapped was needed. Called the Community Hostel, this facility was begun in November 1942 in Building 34-15, across from the hospital. The 20' x 100' barracks was remodeled by the WRA so that it contained a room for men, one for women, and an area between the two with baths, toilets, and a kitchen. The remodeling of the hostel was completed on March 11, 1944.<sup>56</sup>

Another special facility at Manzanar was the Children's Village, which was an orphanage for evacuated Japanese children, located in the firebreak south of Block 29. The three buildings that made up the Children's Village were larger than the other barracks in the camp and were described as "superior in construction, having double flooring, double walls, ceiling, double partitions, inside showers and toilet facilities."<sup>57</sup> One of the buildings was a girls dormitory, one a boys dormitory, and the third contained the mess hall, administrative area, and housing for a number of staff. Construction was undertaken by contract carpenters, for which no starting date is available. Neither is a completion date, although a June 15, 1942, report on the Children's Village stated that work was nearing completion at that time. The first orphans arrived at the Children's Village on or around July 1, 1942.<sup>58</sup>

#### Schools and the Auditorium

As part of the standards for relocation centers agreed upon by the Corps of Engineers and the Western Defense Command, the Corp was not responsible for the construction of schools or community facilities. It was up to the WRA to plan and construct them. In doing so, the agency turned to the FSA for assistance. The FSA had been building housing and community facilities for poor rural

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communities and migrant workers since the Depression, and housing for defense plants and military training centers since the buildup for World War II had begun. Thus, the agency was a logical place for the WRA to find assistance.

In June 1942 the FSA provided Manzanar with plans for two elementary schools, a junior high school, a senior high school, and a combination gymnasium and auditorium to be used by both the junior and senior high schools. These plans, which were based upon the assumption that complete building supplies would be available, included detailed lists of all the materials necessary for the structures, such as lumber, plumbing, heating, electrical, water, sewage, and fire protection materials. A shortage of contract labor made it necessary for the WRA to plan on using evacuee labor under the supervision of a FSA contract engineer to construct the schools. A site was cleared west of Block 36 in June, and construction was expected to begin in July 1942. Delays in the start of construction, most likely due to the unavailability of materials, postponed expected construction until some point in 1943. In the meantime, temporary school facilities were set up in vacated barracks in Blocks 1 and 7.<sup>59</sup>

Plans for the schools at Manzanar included ten classroom buildings, one gymnasium, one shop building, one library for the junior and senior high schools, and nine classroom buildings and one assembly building for the two elementary schools. However, as it appeared that building materials for the schools might not become available in 1943, the administration of Manzanar made a special request to WRA Director Dillon Myer for permission to "go ahead" with construction of certain school facilities which were necessary to meet California standards for accreditation. Among these were a high school auditorium, as well as shop and science facilities. Myer gave his approval to build the needed facilities, and the Manzanar administration made plans for the construction of the new buildings, as well as the remodeling of existing facilities, in order to meet the educational needs of the camp.<sup>60</sup>

By March 10, 1943, it appeared that even the minimal construction of school facilities at Manzanar might be canceled because of the continued shortage of building materials. The War Production Board (WPB), which decided such matters, was informed by the WRA that new school construction at Manzanar had been "deferred" due to "unofficial information" that the WPB would be canceling the construction of portions of these facilities. The WRA stated that present facilities could be used for schools at Manzanar, but construction of the auditorium was necessary because "[n]o existing facilities are available for assembly purposes."<sup>61</sup>

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It appeared that Dillon Myer sent out a March 8, 1943, memorandum informing WRA personnel that the WPB had eliminated the construction of elementary schools at all relocation projects. Two days later, F.W. Thunberg, WRA Assistant Construction Engineer, and Robert E. Gibson, WRA Education Advisor, left WRA headquarters in Washington, D.C. to survey the educational facility needs of all ten relocation centers. The "Thunberg Gibson Report," as it became known, reported that the camps had been using barracks for schools while awaiting new facilities, but these buildings would now be modified to serve as proper schools, and would meet the standards of the school systems of the states in which the camps were located. Furthermore, each high school would be accredited by the states. In general, they found crowded conditions in the schools with 100' barracks divided into four 20' x 24' rooms, and 120' barracks divided into six rooms.

At Manzanar, the survey reported that the only part of the original school plans that would be built would be the high school auditorium (the only remaining "temporary" structure at Manzanar today). This building would include two rooms for shop, a health unit, locker rooms, showers, and storage, in addition to the main assembly area. The existing school facilities would be augmented by the construction of two additional barracks buildings containing six rooms each, and the barracks housing the high school would be remodeled. The nursery school, kindergarten, and elementary schools were using twelve 20' x 100' barracks located in different blocks (Barracks 1-14, 3-15, 5-15, 9-15, 11-15, 17-15, 20-15, 21-15, 23-15, 30-15, 31-15, 32-15) to house 1,300 pupils. The evacuees did not want to consolidate the schools in one area because of the great disruption that would be caused by forcing people to change their current housing. The report recommended the construction of additional facilities for the elementary schools.<sup>62</sup>

Gibson and Thunberg also reported directly to Manzanar Project Director Ralph Merritt on April 22, 1943, on the effect of the cancellation of school construction on camp facilities. They found that the current school facilities "scarcely meet minimum standards in regard to space requirements, lighting, and sanitation. In order to utilize these buildings properly and to have them meet acceptable educational standards, certain modifications and additions are necessary."<sup>63</sup> Among these were the construction of the auditorium and related facilities in the fire break east of Block 7, which was the location of the barracks used for the high school. These barracks were to be renovated, and two more would be constructed in Block 21. In addition, the nursery school, kindergarten, and elementary school

facilities would be renovated.

No specific date was given for the start of remodeling work on the barracks used for the schools. Work may have been ongoing in order for these facilities to serve the changing needs of the students and teachers. Evacuees began construction on the auditorium on January 28, 1944, with a ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone of the building on February 19, 1944. In May 1944 both projects were expected to be completed in time for the high school commencement the following month. By June 13, 1944, the remodeling of the buildings used for the high school was completed, and the elementary schools had been consolidated in Block 16. However, all school remodeling was not yet complete, and the end of construction on the auditorium was then predicted for August 1. The Auditorium was eventually completed on September 30, 1944; the school remodeling was completed in December 1944. The long delay was due to a shortage of labor, probably a result of the relocation of evacuees, and the absence of many young men who were serving in the military.<sup>64</sup>

The completed wood auditorium had overall dimensions of 118' x 119', with the main assembly area measuring 80' x 96'. The stage extended from the east side of the assembly area, and the elevated film projection room from the west. Attached to the north and south sides of the auditorium were areas used for dressing rooms, lockers and offices. An area on the south attachment extended 40' 9" beyond the east end of the auditorium and was used as a health clinic. The large arched roof of the auditorium was supported by five wood trusses.<sup>65</sup>

The first use of the auditorium was a performance of the operetta "Loud and Clear" on June 16, 1944, followed by the graduation of 177 high school students on June 18. Both of these functions took place before the auditorium was fully completed. After the auditorium was completed on September 30, an auditorium committee announced a schedule for users of the building, which included high school physical education classes, the Community Activities Section, and a group called Consumer Enterprises. Other groups had to apply to the auditorium committee to use the building.<sup>66</sup>

A particularly interesting use of the auditorium was a memorial for President Roosevelt on April 15, 1945, three days after his death. The ceremony was attended by 1,300 people at a time when 5,079 evacuees remained at Manzanar. On the stage of the auditorium was a portrait of the President, which was surrounded by fruit blossoms, American flags and floral arrangements, while the aisles of the auditorium were lined with pine tress. As the memorial began, a contingent of MPs who guarded the camp and were

invited to attend the memorial by the evacuees in order to pay tribute to their Commander in Chief, marched down the aisles and took their places at seats reserved for them at the front of the room. The participants in the ceremony, both evacuees and staff, praised the President in words such as those included in a telegram sent to Eleanor Roosevelt, which said "[w]e sincerely regret the loss of such a great leader who devoted his untiring efforts in promoting order, peace, and tolerance in these times of turmoil."<sup>67</sup>

After the closing of Manzanar the auditorium was purchased by Inyo County in 1947 and leased to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), who used the facility as a meeting hall until the early 1950s. It is possible that when the VFW left the facility, the attachment on the south side of the auditorium was removed and brought to Lone Pine, a neighboring town, for use as a new meeting hall. Inyo County took over the auditorium after the VFW and has used it as a maintenance facility for county vehicles since the early 1950s.<sup>68</sup>

#### Recreational Facilities

An aspect of camp construction that had a great impact on the life of the evacuees was the development of recreational facilities, which included buildings used as recreation halls, as well as athletic facilities. The construction of these facilities came under the Community Development Committee, which was made up of staff and evacuees, and was charged with the "overall planning of the physical facilities of the camp,"<sup>69</sup> while the Community Services Section, which was also made up of staff and evacuees, carried out the organization of recreation programs and events which took place at these facilities. Evacuees also worked independently of these two groups to construct facilities and plan events on their own.

Although the Community Development Committee did not exist before the WRA took over the camp, there were recreational facilities provided under the WCCA, which designated Building 15 in each block for recreation. On June 13, 1942, the WRA reported that every four blocks were grouped together in a zone in which each Building 15 served a particular recreational purpose. One building served as an adult activity center, a second as a children's center, a third for arts and crafts, and a fourth as a library. The exceptions were in Block 1 where Building 15 was used by the Boy Scouts, and Block 2 which was occupied entirely by men, so Building 2 served as a men's sports center. In



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The construction of recreational facilities under the WRA included the construction of a stage next to Mess Hall 8, begun in June 1942. The following month, an elevated sand-filled wrestling arena was built west of Block 10, and the foundation for a judo arena in the firebreak between Blocks 10 and 16 was laid. The completed judo arena included a wood floor covered with sawdust that had a canvas stretched over it to hold the sawdust in place. Also in July, an area southwest of Block 12 was graded in preparation for an outdoor theater. Improvised facilities put up in July by evacuees included a basketball court in which baskets were nailed to trees in the firebreak between Blocks 10 and 11, and a dancing area in Block 23 created by stringing up lights. Eventually, six basketball courts were built that month, although it is not known if these were all improvised courts made by evacuees, or more substantial courts built by the administration.<sup>71</sup>

Other athletic facilities, for which construction dates are not available, were built in a sports field in the firebreak between Blocks 8 and 14 in which basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts were set up. A clay like soil was trucked into the camp from the Owens River, four miles to the east, for use on the surface of the basketball and tennis courts. Other firebreaks were used for numerous baseball diamonds and two football fields, complete with goalposts.<sup>72</sup>

Construction of recreational facilities continued in August 1942 when a 40' x 60' concrete stage and benches for 2,000 people were built for the outdoor theater, and an area on the southern side of the camp was cleared for a golf course. In addition, evacuees built a "furo," or a Japanese-style bath, in the men's shower room of Block 6. Constructed of cement rather than the traditional wood, the furo could fit eight people in its 105 degree water. The following month, furos were built in blocks 10, 12, 17, 22, 23, and 29. Evacuees also built a sand box for children in Block 17.<sup>73</sup>

The completed outdoor theater was used twice, once in the fall of 1942 when Dillon Myer addressed the high school assembly at the opening of the school, and a week later at the formal dedication of the theater. After these events, the theater was deemed too far from the camp so a 20' x 30' stage, for which construction dates are not available, was eventually built against the recreation barrack in Block 16.<sup>74</sup>

By 1943 the camp was experiencing a shortage of buildings due to the need to use so many for schools. As a result, Blocks 3, 4, 9, and 10 had no recreation halls, and it became necessary to

have the recreation halls in Blocks 6, 14, 18, 27, 29, and 35 serve four blocks each, as well as have temporary recreation halls in the ironing rooms of Blocks 9 and 22 each serve four blocks as well.<sup>75</sup>

Construction of recreation facilities continued, and a 35' x 60' kendo arena, complete with a small dressing, room was constructed in the spring of 1943. However, interest in this traditional Japanese sport waned after many evacuees born in Japan were sent to the Tule Lake Segregation Center in March 1944. In April, plans were made to build a baseball diamond in the firebreak between Blocks 19 and 25, and a quarter mile track west of Block 36. By this time the Community Activities Section had organized a number of recreation programs, including a woodcraft shop in 4-15, art center in 12-15, flower making in 26-15, sewing in 16-15, 26-15, and 28-15, music hall in 24-15, and a library in 22-15. The evacuees used what they made through these programs to furnish and decorate their apartments.<sup>76</sup>

#### Community Services

Community services and stores were another important aspect of life at Manzanar, as they would be for any town of 10,000 people. Under the WCCA, a canteen and general store was provided. The WRA obtained plans for additional stores for Manzanar from the FSA in 1942, but the new buildings were later considered unnecessary and canceled.

Eventually, the consumer needs of the evacuees were served by Manzanar Cooperative Enterprises, Incorporated, which was set up on September 2, 1942. This organization was run by evacuees in space rented from the WRA. By August 1944 the Co-op ran a canteen in Building 8-14, a shoe repair in the Block 3 iron room, watch repair the Block 10 iron room, laundry and dry cleaning in the Block 10 iron room, dry goods store in Building 21-14, beauty shop in the Block 15 iron room, barber shop in the Block 21 iron room, sporting goods store and flower shop in Building 16-1, photo studio in the Block 30 iron room, fish store in the Block 18 iron room, dress shop in the Block 32 iron room, American Express office in Building 1-6, gift shop in Building 16-15, and an outdoor movie theatre in the firebreak between Blocks 20 and 21.<sup>77</sup>

#### Landscaping, Gardens, and Parks

An October 30, 1942 Project Report provided a description of Manzanar that many who lived in the camp would have agreed with:

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Outwardly the Center presents the same monotonous, drab, ugly tarpaper appearance: straight lines, uniform block arrangements, 15 barracks and a mess hall in exact 40-feet-apart locations; each block with two latrines, a laundry room and ironing room between the rows....There is very little in the physical construction of Manzanar to indicate permanence; the entire Center impresses one with its temporary nature.<sup>78</sup>

Evacuees at Manzanar often took it upon themselves to improve their surroundings by planting lawns and Victory Gardens in firebreaks or building Japanese style rock gardens and parks. In addition, many worked on improvement projects carried out by the camp Public Works Section, or the Community Activities Section. The result was the transformation of this monotonous, drab, and basically ugly camp, into a community that took pride in its appearance.

After taking over Manzanar, the WRA requested that the FSA design a park for the camp that could accommodate at least 1,000 people. However, it is not known if the design was provided, and no such park is evident in maps or photographs of the camp. In addition the Soil Conservation Service prepared a planting plan called a "Program of Conservation Operations," which used 21,000 trees and 25,000 shrubs. This was in response to the large amount of dust blown around in the area because of the sandy soil, the aridity of the area, and high winds. While a great deal of planting and landscaping was carried out, it is not known if any of the work was done according to this plan.<sup>79</sup>

Regardless of the government plans for the improvement of the camp, the evacuees went forward with their own efforts. As early as June 15, 1942, a Victory Garden was growing in the firebreak between Blocks 11 and 17, by July lawns were being planted between barracks, most importantly to keep down the dust, and the area around the main administration building had been landscaped. A visitor to Manzanar described the grounds around the administration area as "beautiful." Also in July, Ryoza Kado, a professional rock garden artist, had four young evacuees working under him to construct gardens in the camp.<sup>80</sup>

An August 8, 1942 Project Report remarked that the "[t]ransformation of sagebrush covered semi-arid land into a green-studded landscape has already made considerable headway," as 155 lawns had been planted between barracks, six fish ponds stocked with carp had been constructed, and several "picturesque rock gardens bordered with local shrubbery have contributed to the elimination of 'dustspace' (open ground)." In addition,

gardens had given "the center an increasingly 'green' appearance."<sup>81</sup>

An example of the dedication of the evacuees at Manzanar to improving their surroundings is that of F.M. Uyematsu, the owner of Star Nurseries in Montebello, California, who agreed in September 1942 to donate approximately 1,000 Japanese cherry trees, as well as a large number of shrubs and plants to the camp for landscaping purposes. The WRA had to request a military permit for him to travel to his nursery and bring the trees to Manzanar in his own truck, which was probably accomplished in November or December. Uyematsu, who sat on the camp Community Development Committee, supervised the planting of the trees in what became known as Japanese Cherry Park, which was located in front of the Children's Village. Another park constructed in 1942 was Rose Park, located in the firebreak between Blocks 33 and 34, which included rosebushes, 100 different types of flowers, and a Japanese tea house. The following year, evacuee William Katsuki landscaped the area around the new entrance to the camp.<sup>82</sup>

One of the most prominent landscaping works by the evacuees in Manzanar was the construction of Merritt Park by Kuichiro Nishi over a ten month period 1943. Contemporary photographs show this to have been a large area which included rock gardens, ponds, at least one rustic bridge, and a gazebo. Nishi designed a memorial stone for the park, on which were inscribed Japanese characters. An English translation provided at the time read:

I do hereby dedicate this park to the memory of fellow Japanese Immigrants. We have lived for more than half of our lives, struggling for our mere livelihood. Although we were ushered in this place with the breaking of friendly relations between the two countries, we have come to enjoy this quiet, peaceful place. As we are nearing the completion of this park on this tenth month, I do hereby name this park 'Merito Park.' I also dedicate this park for the enjoyment of the people and to the memory of the time of our residence here.

In the year 1943

Kuichiro Nishi.<sup>83</sup>

Project Director Merritt questioned the propriety of putting Japanese characters on the stone, as he felt that it would "not make for friendly understanding" with the people of the Owens Valley, upon whom "we must depend to maintain the park in later years."<sup>84</sup> It is not known if the memorial stone was included in the park.

During the time that Merritt Park was under construction, the WRA decided that due to a shortage of materials and a lack of funds, it could not sponsor the construction of additional parks in Manzanar. In the future, materials for new parks and landscaping projects would have to be provided by evacuees, although the WRA could allow them to use surplus government materials. In order to maintain the parks already constructed, the landscapers Nishi and Uyematsu, who were on the payroll of the Public Works Section, would each be allowed a team of three evacuees to assist them in this task. In addition, work on Merritt Park was allowed to continue.<sup>85</sup>

Other projects included the development of picnic areas in and around the camp. When the barbed wire fence on the southern side of camp was moved out 100 yards, bringing Briar's Creek into the southwestern corner of the camp, work was begun to create a picnic area, which included landscaping, paths, rustic bridges, and open air fireplaces, which became so popular with the evacuees that permits had to be issued for the use of the fireplaces. An area in the northern part of the camp was also developed as a picnic area with a large fireplace built by the Public Works Section, and after the evacuees were permitted to leave the camp area, two more were developed, one about half a mile north of the camp, and another along George's Creek, about a mile from the south fence. Although no construction dates are available for the various picnic areas, the Briar's creek picnic area was described in a July 1942 speech given by Project Director Roy Nash, and was probably built that month.<sup>86</sup>

#### Industry and Agriculture

As part of the planning for relocation centers, the WRA took into account the need to offer employment to the evacuees in order to provide them with an opportunity to earn money to buy those things not supplied by the WRA, as well as a way to spend their time constructively. In addition, employment in industry and agriculture was intended to teach the evacuees skills that would help them find jobs for relocation, and provide products and services required by the camp community.

An WRA assessment of the agricultural potential of Manzanar taken prior to the WRA acquiring the facility from the military concluded that the "area affords limited opportunity for agriculture, with only three to four thousand acres at most suitable for irrigation," and that industrial projects would have to be present in the camp in order to provide the evacuees with employment.<sup>87</sup> The industrial infrastructure of Manzanar was primarily forty warehouses built by Griffith and Company as part

of the initial camp construction. Over time, the WRA altered several of the warehouses for different industrial uses, as well as other buildings in the camp.

The first industrial project at Manzanar was a camouflage net factory built by the contractor Q. R. S. Neon Corporation of Los Angeles. The project was opened in June 1942 under the supervision of the Army, and consisted of five buildings within the camp area that surrounded by a barbed wire fence. By September 1942 the factory employed over 600 evacuees, but continued to fall well short of the Army's production goal of 1,000 nets per day. The highest daily production was 631 nets made on September 8.<sup>88</sup>

There were reports that "slackers" in the factory would complete their personal daily quota in as little time as possible, and then sit and play cards for the rest of the day.<sup>89</sup> Many evacuees complained that labor at the factory should be done as piece work instead of the below average wage system established by the Army. By December, poor morale at the factory decreased the work force to 100 people, and the Army proposed enlarging the facility and turning it over to a private contractor who it was believed would be more successful.<sup>90</sup>

Much of the problem with production at the camouflage net factory involved more than just wages. Ironically, as a defense related production project only American citizens were legally allowed to be employed at the factory, which created hostility among the aliens who were excluded from it. The situation surrounding the factory added to the tensions that had developed among the evacuees at Manzanar, a result of the division between the Issei, who were the camp elders born in, and citizens of, Japan; and the Nissei, who were born in, and citizens of, the United States. Other divisions evolved out of this, such as those between pro-Japanese and pro-Americans, and those who were anti-administration and those who cooperated with the WRA.

Tensions among the evacuees at Manzanar led to an assault on a Nissei leader and a subsequent arrest which resulted in a mob surrounding the police station and the administration building on December 6, 1942. The MPs were called into the camp to maintain order, they fired shots, and two evacuees were left dead. After the shootings the MPs patrolled the camp for several days, evacuees stayed in their barracks, and all work in the camp stopped, including the camouflage factory. WRA officials traveled to the camp and met with Ralph Merritt, who "discussed freely what he considered the very bad situation at Manzanar," and "stated emphatically that he was personally opposed to the

operation of the net factory." Merritt continued, saying "that under no condition would he consent to the starting of the net factory, unless he was so instructed by the Director" of the WRA.<sup>91</sup>

In response to the tensions at Manzanar the Army informed the WRA on December 23, 1942, that it would withdraw the camouflage net project from the camp. The following month, Merritt requested that the buildings be turned over to the WRA to be adapted for various uses. The WRA was given use of the buildings, which included an open sided wood floored shed 24' x 150' with 8' high walls that the WRA converted into a warehouse, a 24' x 100' concrete floored shed with 18' high walls that the WRA used for automotive and heavy equipment, and three partially open concrete floored sheds 24' x 300' that were converted into carpenter, plumbing, and electrical shops.<sup>92</sup>

A second industrial project at Manzanar was a garment factory that the WRA planned to open in a 300' x 50' building adjoining the camouflage net factory. Work began on the building in August 1942, and cement floors were put into Warehouse 31 for additional factory space. The training of garment workers took place in a temporary facility set up in the ironing room of Block 2 while power sewing machines were installed in the warehouse. Manufacturing of work clothes for use in the camp, and for sale outside of the camp, began on May 13, 1942. Construction of the building adjacent to the camouflage factory never went beyond the foundation because of a shortage of materials, and in March 1943 the WRA decided that the garment factory facilities in Warehouse 31 would be sufficient.<sup>93</sup>

Another industrial project was the Guayule Nursery Experiment, which began on April 13, 1942 under the direction of the California Institute of Technology, taken over by the U.S. Forest Service on June 1. The goal of the project, which employed a number of evacuees who had scientific and agricultural experience, was "to find a suitable method to produce rubber in the shortest possible period."<sup>94</sup> The work was carried out in the guayule lath house located south of Block 6. The building was completed on or around July 1, 1942, and was expanded to twice its size later that month, finally measuring 104' x 136'. Although the experiment was considered successful, the process was not used for the industrial production of rubber because other technological advances in the field were more promising.<sup>95</sup>

By January 1943 the manufacturing projects at Manzanar included the clothing factory, woodworking, sewing machine repair, clothing repair, a toy factory, and two projects to produce

Japanese food, shoyu (a condiment), and bean sprouts. Later food projects included the production of tofu, miso (a sauce), a pickling plant, and an apiary. Also for the production of foodstuffs, a root cellar was constructed between July 5, 1943 and October 28, 1943, and a vegetable dehydration plant between July 29, 1943 and December 17, 1943, in the area west of the former camouflage factory using spare parts and scrap available on site. In addition, 1943 saw the opening of a mattress factory in the remodeled Warehouse 25. This factory was used to replace the straw-filled mattresses previously used in the camp.<sup>96</sup>

By 1944 the labor shortage resulting from relocation meant that most available labor had to be used for the maintenance of the camp. As a result, the clothing, mattress, and woodworking factories were discontinued, and the presence of a separate Industrial Division as part of the camp administration was ended. The management of the food processing facilities was given to the Mess Division.<sup>97</sup>

As stated earlier, agriculture was not expected to be a major project at Manzanar because of the limited suitable land. Irrigation was crucial to any form of agriculture, as the area received only four-and-one-half inches of rain annually and a had light, sandy type of soil. Fortunately for the camp, the water rates paid to Los Angeles were "favorable" for irrigation of the area.<sup>98</sup>

The first agricultural work at Manzanar was the restoration of fifty acres of the orchard that gave the area its name. Work began on March 27, 1942 when the camp was still under the WCCA, and was supervised by evacuee Ted Akahasi. Other agricultural work, including clearing sagebrush and digging irrigation ditches, began on April 15, 1942. Within thirty days approximately 100 acres had been cleared and eight miles of ditches completed. The first planting of four acres of corn took place on May 16, with three acres of cucumbers the following day. By June 18 the first produce, radishes, were distributed to the mess halls. By spring 1943, 440 acres were in production, and the planned irrigation system was 65 percent complete. In February 1944 the irrigation system included 1.1 miles of lined main ditch, 4.3 miles of lined field laterals, and 2.2 miles of concrete and metal pipeline which carried water from George's Creek and several wells.<sup>99</sup>

The agricultural program, which was intended to make the camp as self sufficient as possible, began to wind down in 1944 due to a loss in population at Manzanar; only 310 acres were in production that year while no crops were planted in 1945. By that time



construction was halted on the irrigation system that was ninety percent complete, and included approximately 9.59 miles of irrigation ditches.<sup>100</sup>

Other projects that provided employment to evacuees and were intended to make Manzanar self sufficient included a chicken ranch, a hog ranch, and raising cattle. Construction began on the chicken ranch, located just outside the southwest corner of the camp, July 8, 1943, and was completed December 31, 1944. The facility consisted of six laying houses, 20' x 192', with nests, roosts, and cement floors for ease in cleaning. They opened onto fenced-in run areas. Other buildings included eight 14' x 24' brooder houses for baby chicks (each of which also had outdoor runs), and a "U" shaped building containing an office, egg storage area, and dressing and packing area. Water was piped in from the main camp water supply in order to clean the concrete floors. The first group of chicks arrived in the camp in August 1943 as part of a purchase of 12,000.<sup>101</sup>

The hog ranch, located approximately 2,600' from the southwest corner of the camp, was begun on September 1, 1943 and completed on April 30, 1944. It consisted of a 20' x 80' warehouse with a concrete floor to store feed, three hog sheds 20' x 20' with fenced lots, and concrete feeding platforms with water troughs (which had water piped into them from George's Creek). The first hogs arrived in November 1943, and forty-five were left when the camp closed in November 1945. Both the chicken and hog ranch areas were surrounded by fencing.<sup>102</sup>

Raising cattle was a smaller project that did not require the construction of any buildings. It began in December 1943 when 199 head were purchased and allowed onto pasture land around George's Creek. In March 1944 ninety-five more were added to the project (other animals were born at Manzanar). The cattle project was ended in December 1944 as it became cheaper to buy beef from the Army Quartermaster.<sup>103</sup>

When the WRA took over the camp on June 1, 1942, industrial related services, such as carpentry, plumbing and repair shops, as well as a lumber yard were temporarily housed in one of the forty warehouses in the camp. In addition, offices for the Industrial Department were set up in Warehouse 23, the Agricultural Division in Warehouse 24, and the woodworking shop was put in Warehouse 32. A refrigerated storage area for meat and vegetables was built in the warehouse area south of Block 2 and west of the administration area in July 1942 by connecting two barracks buildings with a small middle section to form a "U" shaped building.<sup>104</sup>

### Water and Sewage Systems

Befitting a community of over 10,000 people, some of the most substantial construction at Manzanar was the water supply system and the sewage treatment plant. The Corps of Engineers designed these systems and oversaw construction, which was carried out by contractors. Initially, the camp had been served by a water tank located west of Block 24 which held 98,000 gallons of water and was emptied fifteen times in a twenty-four hour period. This was considered inadequate, and on May 22, 1942, construction was begun on a new concrete basin reservoir located northwest of the camp along Shepherd's Creek.<sup>105</sup> A July 1, 1942 Corps of Engineers document concerning the water system stated that all work on "the diversion works, the present desilting works on intake on Shepherd's Creek, the pipe line from Shepherd's Creek to storage tank, the storage tank and hypochlorinator at storage tank, with appurtenant facilities" are completed and released to the WRA.<sup>106</sup> However, "Project Report No.19" stated that the contractor, Griffith and Company, completed the new water system July 8, 1942. In addition, the report states that the new reservoir took in 1,500,00 gallons daily, less than half of the flow of the Shepherd's Creek, with the rest going on to the Owens River, and that the basin held 600,000 gallons of water.<sup>107</sup>

The Engineering Section of the Manzanar "Final Report" stated that the contractor was Vinson and Pringle (which was probably a subcontractor to Griffith and Company), and that the capacity of the basin was 540,000 gallons. In addition, the water was carried from the reservoir through 4,650 feet of steel pipe to a 90,000 gallon steel storage tank, next to which was a chlorinator. The piping and the storage tank were constructed by the Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light, while the insulation of the pipeline and drainage for it were constructed by C.J. Paradise Company. Well No.75, located east of the camp, across U.S. Highway 395, provided additional water to the camp in case the supply from Shepherd's Creek was inadequate. Located at this well was a 10,000 wood storage tank and two pumps operated by, and presumably built by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.<sup>108</sup>

According to the Engineering Section of the "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center," additional work was done on the reservoir to enlarge it from 540,000 gallons to approximately 900,000 gallons by raising the sides of the basin. No date is available for this work. Meanwhile, two maps of the camp, the "Construction Plot Plan" from March 14, 1945, and the "Camp Layout" from April 20, 1945, both have the capacity at 800,000 gallons. A chlorinator was installed at the reservoir in May

1944, but based on the Corps of Engineers document from July 1, 1942, which mentions the completion of a hypochlorinator, it can be assumed that this was a replacement for the previous equipment.<sup>109</sup>

Located one-and-a-half miles southeast of the camp was the sewage disposal plant, which "Project Report No.23" from July 16, 1942, stated was begun on April 23, 1942, and would be completed in three weeks. This was a crucial part of the physical plant of Manzanar, as the proximity of the camp to the Los Angeles Aqueduct caused concern over possible pollution due runoff from the camp. Prior to the construction of the plant by Vinson and Pringle, sewage was collected in a septic tank, with excess waste "allowed to run over the desert waste land."<sup>110</sup>

Located on an acre of land, the plant consisted of a chemical laboratory, five boilers for reclamation of gas, and equipment to allow the plant to operate automatically. The sewage traveled through an 8,000' pipe from the camp to the plant, where liquid and solid were separated and treated. Any gas extracted went into boilers to be used for heating, while the solid went through a chlorinator and then into sludge pits where evaporation converted it into a substance used for fertilizer.

"Project Report No.23" stated that Vinson and Pringle described the plant as "the most modern type sewer farm in the world." The report went on to say that the plant was a "permanent structure," and that the builders constructed it "with an eye toward the establishment of a permanent city of Manzanar."<sup>111</sup> This made no sense, because the land belonged to Los Angeles, and development would not have been allowed on it. A later project report came to the same conclusion as to the durability of the structure, stating that "probably the only construction of permanence [in Manzanar] is the sewer system, built at a cost of \$150,000 and considered one of the most modern in California."<sup>112</sup> The permanence of the sewage plant was not overstated, as much of it remains intact today.

#### Manzanar Cemetery

Most of the people who died at Manzanar appear to have been buried or cremated at places other than the camp. However, a number were buried in the camp cemetery, located west of the camp, just beyond the barbed wire fence. The earliest record of a person buried at the cemetery is Matsunosuke Murakami, who died on May 16, 1942, and was interred in the cemetery soon after.<sup>113</sup> With the closing of the camp there was the issue of whether the graves would be able to remain, as the land was to be returned to

Los Angeles. One of the camp staff expressed the opinion that the people of Manzanar erected a monument at the approximate cost of \$1,000 at the entrance of their cemetery site, which they considered a permanent burial ground. As far as I know, there is no reason whatsoever why these people could not stay where they are.<sup>114</sup>

This letter included a list of fifteen people buried in the cemetery at the time, as well as a copy of a letter from October 29, 1945, that had twenty-eight people listed. It is not known if twenty-eight was the highest number of people buried at the cemetery, nor is it known when the cemetery memorial was erected. The administration of Manzanar continued its efforts to have the cemetery preserved, and with six graves remaining after the camp closed, a three wire fence on 4' posts was erected in 1946.<sup>115</sup>

#### Closing Manzanar

Manzanar achieved its peak population in 1942 when it held 10,049 evacuees. The camp began its relocation program in November 1942, and successfully relocated a total of 18,350 people. Other evacuees at Manzanar were sent to the Tule Lake Segregation Center, entered the military, or had been given permission to leave the camp to go to college. By January 1, 1945, the population of evacuees at Manzanar was 5,549. This decrease in population had an effect on building at the camp, as did the WPB decision to suspend certain projects. The WRA "Semi-Annual Report" for January 1 through June 30, 1945, stated that "[b]y the fall of 1944 most major construction at the centers had been completed."<sup>116</sup> Construction considered essential to the operation of the camp continued, but "all construction work was halted" after the Western Defense Command announced that it would begin to rescind the orders excluding the Japanese from the West Coast. The WRA responded by making the "determination to close the relocation centers within one year of the lifting of the exclusion orders."<sup>117</sup>

Eventually, it had become clear to the War Department that the exclusion of all Japanese could not be justified by military necessity, and on December 17, 1944, Lt. General DeWitt announced that the exclusion orders would be lifted; the effective date for the first orders to be rescinded was January 2, 1945. Although many of the Japanese at Manzanar were allowed to return to the West Coast as a result of the military decision, it was not possible for many to leave the camp immediately. Evacuees either

had no homes to return to, no money for housing or living expenses, no jobs, and feared the anti-Japanese sentiment present on the coast, as well as the violence that had been threatened. Therefore, it was necessary for the WRA to request that the military, which retained legal control of the land on which the camp was located, extend the term of its authority over the land until June 30, 1946.<sup>118</sup>

When evacuees began to leave Manzanar in large numbers it was necessary for the administration to provide them with crates for packing their belongings, and Ralph Merritt obtained permission from Dillon Myer to demolish several buildings in June 1945 in order to use the wood for crates. The buildings wrecked for this purpose were recreation halls 35-15 and 36-15.<sup>119</sup>

The Washington office of the WRA informed Merritt on July 12, 1945, that the closing date for Manzanar would be December 1. The administration of Manzanar responded by scheduling a series of block closures in which the evacuees remaining at the camp would be consolidated in several blocks while others were shut down. In addition, the Manzanar Children's Village was closed on July 31, 1945, and the children returned to the orphanages from which they came.<sup>120</sup>

Japan surrendered to the Allied Forces on V-J Day, August 15, 1945, and the Western Defense Command rescinded the last of the exclusion orders on September 4. At Manzanar, fourteen blocks were scheduled to be closed by October 1, 1945, and the hog and chicken projects were to end shortly. The last evacuees, a boy and his mother, left Manzanar on November 21, 1945, and the camp was closed nine days ahead of schedule. Administrative work continued on the site until March 9, 1946, when the property was turned over to the General Land Office of the U.S. Department of the Interior, which had control of the land until the license to use the land expired on June 30, 1946, coincidentally the same day that the WRA was officially terminated. At that time, the General Land Office had ninety days to restore the land to its original condition.<sup>121</sup>

#### The Remains of Manzanar

After Manzanar was closed the buildings on the site became surplus government property and were sold, many to veterans who were given preference in obtaining them. Most buildings were dismantled and the lumber was hauled away to be used for new construction, but many were left intact and moved to other locations to be converted for other uses. As a result, several towns in the Owens Valley presently include homes and businesses

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occupying remodeled buildings from Manzanar. As mentioned earlier, a wing of the auditorium was removed, and is believed to have been moved to Lone Pine for use as a VFW hall.

With most buildings removed from the site, the remains of Manzanar consists primarily of foundations and concrete pads which mark the location of barracks and other structures. Many of these have been disturbed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which has dug several trenches across the site in order to channel water running down from the Sierra Nevada into the aqueduct. The significant construction still intact on the site includes the rock sentry and police houses at the camp entrance, several Japanese style gardens and parks, the cemetery memorial, and the auditorium. The desert has reclaimed much of Manzanar, and the site is covered with sand and plants characteristic of the Great Basin.

After the closing of the camp, Ralph Merritt wrote that

Manzanar will return to the desert and be forgotten, but the spirit and achievements of staff and evacuees who here worked together will not die or be forgotten. In these three and a half years, while the world was engaged in its bloodiest war, the people of Manzanar of many national and racial origins, learned by practice the way of tolerance, understanding, and peace.<sup>122</sup>

Merritt was correct in thinking that the achievements of those associated with Manzanar would not die, but wrong in remarking that the camp itself would be forgotten. In order to preserve and interpret the remains of Manzanar War Relocation Center, the United States Congress established Manzanar National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park System, on March 3, 1992.

## Part II. Sources of Information

### Bibliography

The vast majority of information was gathered from the collections located at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and other archives as listed below. Reference to individual documents within the record groups cited below are too numerous to mention, and as they are cited in the footnotes, it would be redundant to do so here. See notes section following for a complete listing of primary sources.

**Primary Documents:**

Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210.  
National Archives and Records Administration, Washington,  
D.C.

Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of  
Engineers, Record Group 77. National Archives and Records  
Administration, Washington, D.C.

War Relocation Authority Archive, Collection 122. University  
Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

**Secondary Sources:**

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U.S. War Department. Western Defense Command and Fourth Army.  
Final Report: Japanese Evacuation From the West Coast, 1942.  
Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1943.

III. Project Information:

The documentation of Manzanar was undertaken in the summer of  
1994 by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American  
Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) Division of the National Park  
Service in cooperation with Death Valley National Monument and  
the Western Regional Office of NPS. The principals involved were  
Tom Mulhern, Chief, Division of Park Historic Preservation, WRO;

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Ross Hopkins, Superintendent, Manzanar National Historic Site; Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, HABS/HAER; Paul Dolinsky, Chief, HABS. The project was organized and directed by Joseph D. Balachowski, HABS Supervisory Architect and Catherine C. Lavoie, HABS Supervisory Historian. The documentation was produced in the field by supervisor Elizabeth I. Loudon, Professor, Texas Tech University; Architects Christopher Dwyer, Washington, D.C. and Zoltan Sugar, US-ICOMOS, Budapest, Hungary; Architecture Technician Anthony Nash, Iowa State University; Historian Michael Kelleher, New York University; and Photographer Brian Grogan, El Portal, California.

Notes:

Abbreviations that designate material from the National Archives, Washington, D.C., and the University Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles, where the research on this report was conducted, appear below.

**RG77 NA:** Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Record Group 77, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

**RG210 NA:** Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

**C122 UCLA:** War Relocation Authority Archive, Collection 122, University Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

1. U.S. War Department. Final Report: Japanese Evacuation From the West Coast, 1942. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1943.

2. U.S. War Department. Final Report: Japanese Evacuation From the West Coast, 1942. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1943.

3. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Project Director's Report. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

4. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Project Director's Report, Appendix 25. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.



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5. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Director's Report. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

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7. Condemnation Proceeding: United States of America, Plaintiff, vs. 5,700 Acres of Land, More or Less, in the County of Inyo, State of California; City of Los Angeles, a municipal corporation; Bureau of Power and Light, a political subdivision of the City of Los Angeles; County of Inyo, a body politic and corporate; State of California, a corporation sovereign. No. 147 Civil. Complaint in Condemnation. June 27, 1942. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

8. Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, to Chief of Engineers, Real Estate Division, War Department, March 13, 1945. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

9. "Directive for Construction for Alien Enemies." March 6, 1942. File 652 Owens Valley, California; Box 657; RG77 NA.

10. Division Engineer, Southern Pacific Division, San Francisco, to District Engineer, U.S. Engineer Office, Los Angeles, California, March 13, 1942. File 652 Owens Valley, California; Box 657; RG77 NA.

11. "Standards and Details-Construction of Japanese Evacuee Reception Centers." June 8, 1942. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG 210 NA.

12. A June 1, 1942 Corps of Engineers report lists the following individuals as associated with the Owens Valley Project,  
Commanding Officer: Lt. Severson  
Contracting Officer: Lt. Colonel Edwin G. Kelton  
Area Engineer: Leonard G. Hogue  
Operator: Griffith Co. (Buildings)  
Representatives: J. Hepinstall  
Architect-Engineer: None  
Construction Contractor's Representatives at job: O. E. Evans  
Date project assigned to District: March 13, 1942.\*

\*"Report on Assignment of Projects to Districts." June 1,

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1942. File 323.7 Owens Valley Reception Center, California; Box 657; RG77 NA.

13. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Director's Report, Appendix 25. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

14. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Director's Report. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

15. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Director's Report, Appendix 25. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

16. U.S. War Department. Final Report: Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast, 1942. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1943.

17. John R. Provinse, Community Service Section, WRA, to Milton S. Eisenhower, Director, WRA, May 8, 1942. File 41.080 Individual Centers (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

18. Harry L. Black, to Clayton E. Triggs, Manager, Owens Valley Reception Center, WCCA, May 7, 1942. File 41.079 Project Director's Bulletins; Box 224; RG210 NA.

19. Harry L. Black, to Roy Nash, Project Director, May 20, 1942. File WCCA-Dissolution of WCCA; Box 6; C122 UCLA.

20. "Standards and Details-Construction of Japanese Evacuee Reception Centers." June 8, 1942. File WRA Manzanar (Description of); Box 17; C122 UCLA.

21. Kelton, Colonel, Corps of Engineers, to Resident Engineer, May 16, 1942. File WRA-Military Police; Box 18; C122 UCLA.

22. "Memorandum of Understanding as to Functions of Military Police Units at the Relocation Centers and Areas Administered by the War Relocation Authority." July 8, 1942. File WRA-Military Police; Box 18; C122 UCLA.

23. Roy Nash, Project Director, to Harvey Brown, Jr., Senior Engineer, June 15, 1942. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

"Project Report No.32." July 23, 1942. File WRA- Reports-

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Project Reports Office, July 1942; Box 24; C122 UCLA.

24. Manzanar From the Inside, written by Roy Nash, Project Director [July 31, 1942]. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

A project report dated August 4, 1942, referring to the recent construction of four watch towers at the corners of the camp appears to refute this. However, this report states that the towers were 75' high, while other sources put the height at 40'. As a result, the information in the August 4, 1942, report is questionable.\*

\* "Project Report No. 32." August 4, 1942. File WRA-Project Reports Office, August 1942, Box 24; C122 UCLA.

25. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

26. Harvey M. Coverley, Acting Project Director, to Capt. Martyn L. Hall, Commanding Officer, 322nd M.P. Escort Guard Co, October 16, 1942. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG 210 NA.

"Transfer of New Construction." November 5, 1942. File 43.503 Construction and Maintenance of Centers-Manzanar; Box 315; RG210 NA.

27. "Fixed Asset Inventory, Manzanar Relocation Center." November 15, 1945. Box 7; RG210 NA.

28. "Standards and Details-Construction of Japanese Evacuee Reception Centers." June 8, 1942. Folder WRA-Manzanar (Description of); Box 17; C122 UCLA.

29. Roy Nash, Project Director, to Harry Brown, Jr., Senior Engineer, June 15, 1942. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG 210 NA.

Roy Nash, Project Director, to S.W. Lowden, District Engineer, California Division of Highways, August 14, 1942. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

30. "Project Report No.26." July 24, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

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31. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

32. "Quarterly Progress Section, Manzanar Relocation Center, July 1 - September 30 1942." File WRA-Reports-Project Reports Office, October 1942; Box 24; C122 UCLA.

"Quarterly Report of Manzanar WRA Project, October-December 1942." File Reports-Project reports, December 1942; Box 25; C122 UCLA.

33. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

34. Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, December 24, 1943. File WRA-Military Police; Box 18; C122 UCLA.

35. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Project Director's Report, Appendix 25. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76) RG210 NA.

36. E.R. Fryer, Regional Director, WRA, to Karl R. Bendetsen, Colonel, GSC, Assistant Chief of Staff, June 8, 1942. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

37. "Conditions at Manzanar Relocation Area." June 1, 1942. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

38. "Conditions at Manzanar Relocation Area." June 1, 1942. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

39. Arthur H. Miller, Director of Housing, to Roy Nash, Project Director, June 8, 1942. File 60.100 Housing (Evacuee); Box 225; RG210 NA.

L.F. Cress, Colonel, Cavalry, Deputy Director, WRA, to Milton S. Eisenhower, Director, WRA, June 11, 1942. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

"Project Report No.3." June 15, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

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40. "Project Report No.13." June 30, 1942. "Project Report No.15." July 1, 1942. "Project Report No.23." July 16, 1942. "Project Report No.25." July 23, 1942. "Project Report No.26." July 24, 1942. "Project Report No.29." August 3, 1942. "Project Report No.51." September 18, 1942. "Project Report No.57." October 6, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

Ernest K. Shelbe, Major, Corps of Engineers, Contracting Office, to Roy Nash, Project Director, July 10, 1942. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

41. "Quarterly Progress Section, Manzanar Relocation Center, July 1-September 30, 1942." File October 1942; Box 24; C122 UCLA.  
"Project Report No.64." October 30, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

42. "Project Report No.9." June 22, 1942. "Project Report No.15." July 1, 1942. "Project Report No.45." September 10, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

"Project Report No.25." July 23, 1942. File WRA-Reports-Project Reports Office, July 1942; Box 24; C122 UCLA.

"Quarterly Progress Section, Manzanar Relocation Center, July 1-September 30, 1942." File October 1942; Box 24; C122 UCLA.

Community Service Division, to Harvey M. Coverly, Acting Regional Director, November 14, 1942. File 62.018 Hostel, Community; Box 226; RG210 NA.

Robert L. Brown, Assistant Project Director, to Arthur M. Sandridge, Senior Engineer, October 20, 1943. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

43. 43. "Project Report, Month of March 1944." File March 1944; Box 73; C122 UCLA.

44. "Project Director's Bulletin No.60." September 25, 1943. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

45. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Personal Narrative, Arthur M. Sandridge, Senior Engineer. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 79); RG210 NA.

46. Ralph P. Merritt, Director, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, January 10, 1943. File 43.500 Construction and Maintenance of Centers (General); Box 312; RG210 NA.

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47. "Materials for War Relocation Authority Community Facilities." June 16, 1942. File 43.500 Construction and Maintenance of Centers (General); Box 311; RG210 NA.

"Materials for War Relocation Authority Community Facilities." August 5, 1942. File 43.500 Construction and Maintenance of Centers (Manzanar Center); Box 313; RG210 NA.

48. F.W. Thunberg, Senior Engineer, WRA, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, May 22, 1943. File 43.500 Construction and Maintenance of Centers (General); Box 312; RG210 NA.

Arthur M. Sandridge, Senior Engineer, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, Feb 17, 1944. File WRA-Engineering; Box 13; C122 UCLA.

Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, June 13, 1944. File 43.503 Construction and Maintenance of Centers-Manzanar; Box 315; RG210 NA.

"Semi-Annual Report, January 1-June 30, 1945." File WRA-Semi-annual reports; Box 58; RG210 NA.

49. "Project Report No.23." July 16, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

50. "Fixed Asset Inventory, Manzanar Relocation Center." November 15, 1945. Box 7; RG210 NA.

51. "Progress Report of the Manzanar Hospital." Undated. File WRA-Hospital; Box 15; C122 UCLA.

52. "Progress Report of the Manzanar Hospital." Undated. File WRA-Hospital; Box 15; C122 UCLA.

"Project Report No.12." June 30, 1942. "Project Report No. 51." September 17, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

53. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

54. "Additional Hospital Construction, Job No. Los Angeles District WDC T(3-4), at Owens Valley Reception Center, Manzanar California." May 19, 1943. File 91.025 U.S. Engineers Division; Box 232; RG210 NA.

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55. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

56. Community Service Division, to Harvey M. Coverly, Acting Regional Director, WRA, November 14, 1942; File 62.018 Hostel, Community; Box 226; RG210 NA.

Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, June 13, 1944. File 43.503 Construction and Maintenance of Centers-Manzanar; Box 315; RG210 NA.

The WRA Construction Plot Plan of Manzanar, dated March 14, 1945, shows the Community Hostel in Building 14-16. However, the report which this map is included in identifies Building 14-16 as a mess hall.\*

\*"Fixed Asset Inventory, Manzanar Relocation Center." November 15, 1945. Box 7; RG210 NA.

57. "Project Report No.3." June 15, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

58. "Project Report No.3." June 15, 1942. "Project Report No. 14." July 1, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

59. "Materials for WRA Community Facilities." June 16, 1942. File 43.500 Construction and Maintenance of Centers (General); Box 311; RG210 NA.

"Project Report No.3." June 15, 1942. "Project Report No.21." July 13, 1942. "Project Report No.45." September 10, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

60. Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, January 10, 1943. File 43.500 Construction and Maintenance of Centers (General); Box 312; RG210 NA.

Robert L. Brown, Acting Project Director, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, February 6, 1943. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

61. R.B. Cozzens, Field Assistant Director, War Relocation Authority, to Kenneth G. High, War Production Board, March 10, 1943. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

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62. Robert E. Gibson, Education Advisor, WRA, and F.W. Thunberg, Assistant Construction Engineer, WRA, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, May 20, 1943. File 43.500 Construction and Maintenance of Centers (General); Box 312; RG210 NA.

63. Robert E. Gibson, Education Advisor, WRA, and F.W. Thunberg, Assistant Construction Engineer, WRA, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, April 22, 1943. File 43.500 Construction and Maintenance of Centers (General); Box 312; RG210 NA.

64. Manzanar Free Press, 23 February 1944. Box 78; C122 UCLA.

"Project Report, Month of May 1944." File May 1944; Box 73; C122 UCLA.

Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, June 13, 1944. File 43.503 Construction and Maintenance of Center-Manzanar; Box 315; RG210 NA.

"Project Report, Month of September 1944." File September 1944; Box 73; C122 UCLA.

"Project Report, Month of December 1944." File December 1944; Box 73; C122 UCLA.

Ralph Merritt's office diary. File Diary (office); Box 47; C122 UCLA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

65. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

66. "'Loud and Clear' Received Well," Manzanar Free Press, 17 June 1944. Box 87; C122 UCLA.

"1200 Attend Annual Graduation Program," Manzanar Free Press, 21 June 1944. Box 87; C122 UCLA.

Manzanar Free Press, 30 September 1944. Box 87; C122 UCLA.

67. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Project Director's Report, Appendix 3. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

68. Bill Michael, Director, Eastern California Museum, phone interview by author, 18 July 1994.

69. "Community Development Committee." February 3, 1943. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.



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70. A.G. Nelson, Chief, Recreation Section, to Mr. Temple, Director, June 13, 1942. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

71. Director, Works Division, to Roy Nash, Project Director, June 5, 1942. File 67.010 General Recreational Problems; Box 228; RG210 NA.

"Project Report No.21." July 13, 1942. "Project Report No.26." July 24, 1942. "Project Report No.28." July 30, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

"Project Report No.25." July 23, 1942. File WRA-Reports - Project Reports Office, July 1942; Box 24; C122 UCLA.

72. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Community Activities Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

73. "Project Report No.29." August 3, 1942. "Project Report No.42." August 25, 1942. "Project Report No.61." October 22, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Community Activities Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

74. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Community Activities Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

75. A.G. Nielson, Supervisor, Community Activities Section, to Lucy W. Adams, Assistant Project Director, Community Management, February 23, 1943. File 67.000 Recreational Facilities (Community Activities); Box 228; RG210 NA.

A.G. Nielson, Supervisor, Community Activities Section, to Block Manager, March 30, 1943. File 67.000 Recreational Facilities (Community Activities); Box 228; RG210 NA.

76. Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to A.G. Nielson, Supervisor, Community Activities Section, April 12, 1943. File 67.000 Recreational Facilities (Community Activities); Box 228; RG210 NA.

A.G. Nielson, Supervisor, Community Activities Section, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, April 17, 1943. File 67.000 Recreational Facilities (Community Activities); Box 228; RG210 NA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Community Activities Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

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77. "Project Report No.44." September 2, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

F.W. Thunberg, Senior Engineer, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, May 22, 1943. File 43.500 Construction and Maintenance of Centers (General); Box 312; RG210 NA.

"Organizational Chart." August 27, 1944. File 69.030 Cooperative Stores (General); Box 229; RG210 NA.

78. "Project Report No. 64." October 30, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

79. Laurence I. Hewes, Jr., Regional Director, Farm Security Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, to Roy Nash, Project Director, July 13, 1942. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

R.A. Petrie, Assistant to the Regional Director, WRA, to Roy Nash, Project Director, July 24, 1942. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

80. "Project Report No.3." June 15, 1942. "Project Report No.14." July 1, 1942. "Project Report No.25." July 23, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

"Project Report No.17." July 1, 1942. Folder WRA-Reports-Project Reports Office, July 1942; Box 24; C122 UCLA.

Carl J. Thye, Senior Engineer, WRA, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, August 20, 1945. File 43.503 Construction and Maintenance of Centers-Manzanar; Box 315; RG210 NA.

81. "Project Report No. 32." August 8, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

82. "Project Report No.14." July 1, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

Ned Campbell, Assistant Project Director, to Elmer M. Rowalt, Acting Regional Director, WRA, September 16, 1942. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to H. Brown, H. McConnell, and William Katsuki, March 20, 1943. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Community Activities Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

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83. "Translation from Japanese to English, Memorial Stone." File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

84. Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Lucy W. Adams, Assistant Project Director, Community Management, date illegible. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

85. Robert L. Brown, Assistant Project Director, to Arthur M. Sandridge, Senior Engineer, June 24, 1943. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

86. Manzanar From the Inside, written by Roy Nash, Project Director, [July 31, 1942]. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Community Activities Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

87. "Memorandum to the Washington Staff, WRA." April 29, 1942. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

88. "Project Report No.3." June 15, 1942. "Project Report No.45." September 10, 1942. "Project Report No.47." September 16, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

89. "Project Report No.50." September 17, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

90. "Project Report No.75." December 3, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

91. E.L. Stancliff, to H.M. Coverley, Assistant Regional Director, WRA, December 7, 1942. File 81.104 Camouflage Nets; Box 506; RG210 NA.

92. William P. Scobey, Colonel, General Staff, Executive, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, December 23, 1942. File 81.104 Camouflage Nets; Box 506; RG 210 NA.

Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, January 16, 1943. File 43.503 Construction and Maintenance of Centers-Manzanar; Box 315; RG210 NA.

Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, to R.B. Cozzens, Field Assistant Director, WRA, February 24, 1943. File 43.503

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Construction and Maintenance of Centers-Manzanar; Box 315; RG 210 NA.

93. F. Tayama and Koe Ito, Project Research, to Ned Campbell, Assistant Project Director, July 1, 1942. File WCCA-Production (Agriculture and Industry); Box 6; C122 UCLA.

"Project Report No.40." August 22, 1942. "Project Report No.45." September 10, 1942. "Project Report No.54." September 24, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

"Quarterly Progress Section, Manzanar Relocation Center, July 1-September 30, 1942." File October 1942; Box 24; C122 UCLA.

R.B. Cozzens, Assistant Field Director, WRA, to Kenneth G. High, War Production Board, March 10, 1943. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

94. F. Tayama and Joe Ito, Project Research, to Ned Campbell, Assistant Project Director, July 1, 1942. File WCCA-Production (Agriculture and Industry); Box 6; C122 UCLA.

95. "Project Report No.14." July 1, 1942. "Project Report No.26." July 24, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

96. H.R. Haberle, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, January 12, 1943. File WRA-Industry; Box 15; C122 UCLA. Industrial Division, to Robert L. Brown, November 29, 1943. File WRA-Industry; Box 15; C122 UCLA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

97. Robert L. Brown, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, May 23, 1944. File WRA-Industry; Box 15; C122 UCLA.

98. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." Agriculture Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78.); RG210 NA.

99. F. Tayama and Joe Ito, Project Research, to Ned Campbell, Assistant Project Director, July 1, 1942. File WCCA-Production (Agriculture and Industry); Box 6, C122 UCLA.

R.B. Cozzens, Field Assistant Director, to Kenneth G. High, War Production Board, March 10, 1943. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

A.M. Sandridge, Senior Engineer, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project

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Director, February 17, 1944. File WRA-Engineering; Box 13; C122 UCLA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Area." 1946. Project Director's Report, Appendix 25. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

100. Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, January 25, 1945. File 43.503 Construction and Maintenance of Centers-Manzanar; Box 315; RG 210 NA.

"Fixed Asset Inventory, Manzanar Relocation Center." November 15, 1945. Box 7; RG210 NA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Agriculture Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

101. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering and Agriculture Sections. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

A February 17, 1944, memorandum lists the dimensions for the brooding houses as 20' x 24'.\*

\*A.M. Sandridge, Senior Engineer, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, February 17, 1944. File WRA-Engineering; Box 13; C122 UCLA.

102. Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Dillon S. Myer, Director, WRA, June 13, 1944. File 43.503 Construction and Maintenance of Centers-Manzanar; Box 315; RG210 NA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering and Agriculture Sections. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

103. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Agriculture Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

104. "Conditions at Manzanar Relocation Area." June 1, 1942. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center; Box 293; RG210 NA.

"Project Report No.18." July 6, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

Unsigned, to H.R. Haberle, Superintendent, Manufacturing, December 22, 1942. File WRA-Industry; Box 15; C122 UCLA

105. Ralph Brooks, Director Works and Maintenance, WCCA to John Heinmiller, Resident Engineer, U.S. Engineers Division, April 23, 1942. File 91.025 U.S. Engineers Division; Box 222; RG210 NA.

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106. "O.V.R.C., Manzanar, California-Contract No.W-509-Eng.-2178-Sewer, Water and Gas Systems-Partial Completion and Release." July 1, 1942. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

107. "Project Report No.18." July 8, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

108. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

109. Robert L. Brown, Acting Project Director, to Doctor Little, May 11, 1944. File 43.500 Construction of Centers (General) Repairs-Maintenance-Wiring-Landscaping-Electrical; Box 224; RG210 NA.

"WRA Construction Plot Plan," March 14, 1945; "Camp Layout," April 20, 1945, in "Fixed Asset Inventory, Manzanar Relocation Center." November 15, 1945. Box No. 7; RG210 NA.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Engineering Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

110. "Project Report No.23." July 16, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053. roll 76); RG210 NA.

C.G. Gillespie, Chief, Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, California Department of Public Health, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, November 17, 1943. File 63.030 Sewage Disposal; Box 226; RG210 NA.

111. "Project Report No. 23." July 16, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

112. "Project Report No.63." October 30, 1942. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.

113. Community Service Division, to Emery D.K. Jackson, Captain. Q.M.C., June 9, 1942. File 62.100 Burial of Japanese; Box 226; RG210 NA.

114. Lyle G. Wentner, Assistant Project Director, to John H. Provinse, Chief, Community Management Division, WRA, June 27, 1945. File 62.120 Cemeteries; Box 226; RG210 NA.

115. Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Arthur M. Sandridge, Senior Engineer, January 7, 1946. File 62.120 Cemeteries; Box 226; RG210 NA.

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116. "Semi-Annual Report, January 1-June 30, 1945." File WRA-Semi-annual reports; Box 58; C122 UCLA.

117. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Relocation Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 78); RG210 NA.

118. Dillon S. Myer, Director WRA, to Chief of Engineers, Real Estate Division, March 13, 1945. File 41.080 Individual Projects (Manzanar Relocation Center); Box 293; RG210 NA.

119. "Project Report Month of June 1945." File Reports-Project reports, June 1945; Box 73; C122 UCLA.

"Fixed Asset Inventory, Manzanar Relocation Center." November 15, 1945. Box 7; RG210 NA.

120. John H. Provinse, Chief, Community Management Division, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, July 7, 1945. File 41.133 Closing of Projects (General); Box 295; RG210 NA.

"Project Director's Bulletin No.76." August 2, 1945. File WRA-Bulletins, Project Director; Box 7; C122 UCLA.

"Semi-Annual Report, July 1-December 31, 1945." File WRA-WRA-Semi-annual reports; Box 58; C122 UCLA.

121. Carl J. Thye, Senior Engineer, WRA, to Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, August 20, 1945. File 43.503 Construction and Maintenance of Center-Manzanar; Box 315; RG210 NA.

Ralph P. Merritt, Project Director, to Commanding General, Army Service Forces, Real Estate Division, undated, in "Fixed Asset Inventory, Manzanar Relocation Center." November 15, 1945; Box 7; RG210.

"Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Relocation Section. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 77); RG210 NA.

122. "Final Report: Manzanar Relocation Center." 1946. Project Director's Report. (National Archives Microfilm Publication C0053, roll 76); RG210 NA.